

The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



APRIL 2020

Lent



(From Facebook)

THIS IS THE LENTIEST LENT WE'VE EVER LENTED

We have all been making sacrifices every day and life has been interrupted but our life with GOD has not been interrupted. I read an article on Facebook recently that sometimes the best, most complete prayer is HELP! I had been praying a lot and still feeling much anxiety but one day I prayed that simple HELP! prayer and it seemed my anxiety just disappeared. Maybe it was because I wasn't trying to tell God what I thought I needed to feel better. I'm just trusting God to give me what HE knows I need. Stay well my friends! Wash your hands and don't touch your face and stay distanced from others. If you develop a fever, assume you have COVID-19 and isolate yourself from the rest of your household for the next couple days. If you get better in a day or two, you don't have it. If you get sicker with shortness of breath, contact your doctor.

Pat Carter



We will certainly miss being together during Holy Week this year but do something to honor it in your heart.

ASK FOR HELP FROM YOUR CHURCH
If you need some help, call and ask. Many of us can still get out to the grocery and pick up what you need. Pat C

THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO CHURCH

Although our churches are closed and we can't gather for worship, there are other ways you can attend a service if you want. The Diocese has set up a VIRTUAL ABBEY on Facebook with several services throughout the day. Churches with priests have been having Sunday morning prayer services from their homes and some churches are holding virtual Eucharists for you to participate in. There is a statement in our prayer book that states if you desire communion and can't receive it, you will get the benefits of it anyway. If you don't have Facebook (it's easy to sign up for it) you can look for services online other ways or just turn to your prayer book. Some examples of what's available are Eucharist from the National Cathedral, St. Peter's, Lebanon with Father Christopher Beasley, joining friends and family in their online services anywhere in the country. It's a new world and we are very fortunate to have technology to give us alternatives.

FROM INCOMING TREASURER

Please keep our church in your prayers. We need to keep our pledges up to date as best we can for the wellbeing of our church. We still have utilities, insurance, etc. to pay for and your continued support will help maintain our day to day operations. Send it to the church by check or money order (no cash). The separation we are experiencing now will not last forever. Until we are together again, let us pray for each other and continue our ministry outside the walls of our church. Peace be to all.

Love in Christ, Terri Clark

RECAP OF BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

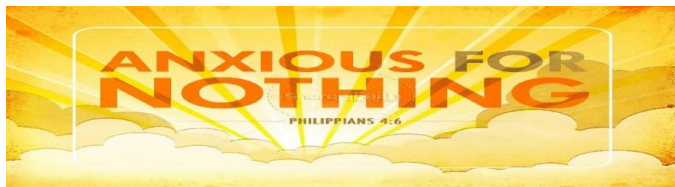
It has been requested that I put a recap of each BC meeting. More details are in the newsletters articles as they develop.

- 1.Maintenance agreement with MRS on boiler and air conditioning \$950
- 2.Discussion of Holy Week services
- 3.50th anniversary of Earth Day 4/22
- 4.Deacon Barry will present info about assimilation of new members
- 5.We will get an additional sound box for use with lapel and headphone mic
- 6.There was a church ad placed in the New Castle High School yearbook
- 7.Discussed expanding Facebook and starting an Instagram page to use to reach out to younger people.
- 8.We approved a request by MARA to hold an additional meeting on Friday mornings.
- 9.Discussed need for a pastoral care/visitation group
- 10.Approved purchase of new mower
- 11.Will check into oiling the Jesus statue
- 12.Rick and Terri Clark new safeguarding leads
13. Monthly financial report was reviewed and approved. A copy is available for review on the bulletin board.

*Faith Hope
Love*

HEALING WORKSHOP

Deacon Barry has rescheduled the workshop for Saturday, August 22nd. If you already registered and paid and find you can't attend, let me know and you will get a refund. Pat C



"Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" by Max Lucado

WE ONLY GOT 2 SESSIONS DONE TOGETHER. MAX LUCADO HAS OFFERED THESE VIDEOS FREE ONLINE. IF YOU CAN'T FIND THEM, LET ME KNOW AND I WILL FORWARD THEM TO YOU.

PAT CARTER

**BISHOP COMMITTEE MEETING AND DOK MEETING
ALL AA AND MARA MEETINGS**
Cancelled. **LIFE**, interrupted

EASTER BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

Forward Movement, the publisher of our daily devotional guide, is sponsoring a study of the Gospel of Matthew during the 50-day Easter Season. It will begin Easter Sunday, April 12, and conclude on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. It is offered without any cost.

Supplemental resources to accompany the readings will be available, some free, some for a cost from various other sponsors. Enrollment is through the web page [Good Book Club](#). Of additional note, organizers are soliciting submissions of "artwork, images, and photographs" to be circulated with the daily readings.

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

The Indiana Department of Corrections and its facilities are always in need of various types of donations. The New Castle Correctional facility is asking for Release Clothing – clothing, shoes, accessories– for those being released back into society. They would greatly appreciate any assistance with providing clothing for the men incarcerated upon release. The population at the facility consists of men of all size and age. The men at the facility, the NC/ Henry County community, and the communities these men return to thank you for your generosity. Timothy Kiess, GEO

NEW MOWER TO BE PURCHASED

The Bishop's committee voted to purchase a new zero turn mower from a John Deere dealer in Rushville. Kevin Chapman spoke with them and got a price quote of \$4800. The money from Erma Rich's gift to us will be used. The current mower is 10 years old and is available for sale for \$1000. It has 600 hours of mowing time on it. If you are interested in it, let Sonny Carter know by April 8.

MAILINGS FROM CAROLYN

Carolyn Shupert has mailed out the readings for Holy Week with a letter. Prayer books are available in the breezeway if you need one. If you didn't get the mailing, let me know so she can get it to you.

Harper's Bible Dictionary, in the entry for "wilderness", notes the connection between that word and our word "bewildered"---both based on the word "wild". The wilderness, say the authors of the entry, was not necessarily just desert areas, but also marginal cultivated land, pastureland, and forest---areas perceived as dangerous and scary, where one was prone to get lost or subject to attack by wild beasts.

It was into the wilderness that Moses led the Hebrew people to be formed into God's covenant people; that the prophet Elijah fled to escape Queen Jezebel's death threat and received direction from the Lord; and that Jesus was driven by the Spirit for his own formational experience as God's Beloved Son and Anointed One.

The 40-day "wilderness" experience of Lent that we observe---modeling Jesus and Elijah's own 40 days as well as Moses' and the Hebrews' 40 years---is especially poignant this year with the challenge of COVID-19. The wild beast cannot be seen and may be lurking anywhere. We have a stronger sense of dependence on forces beyond ourselves, and a stronger reliance on God.

COVID-19 has challenged us to stay connected despite social-distancing; to recognize the economic vulnerability of so many, and the difficulties of keeping children and older persons safe; the importance of not being an unwitting carrier of the virus; the significance of "underlying health conditions" and the importance of maintaining our physical health. It raises issues of who to trust, which voices to listen to when making decisions. It calls us to consider what underlying values are most important to us.

I sense this experience as having a formational opportunity for us, meaning how will we be shaped or formed by this experience? Might it be an opportunity for discernment about our life as faith communities?

If we use this as opportunity to become better formed or shaped in the image of God as found in Jesus, what will we become---individually and corporately? What may we learn about how we form community, about how we care for one another, about how we pray and worship, and about how we hone our minds and spirits to understand God's work in the world?

Will we return to the trusted, familiar ways that made us comfortable, or will we find ourselves discerning new ways forward that while less trusted, less familiar, and less comfortable, might hold the possibility of new vitality, new life?

Living in the Wilderness---especially for an unknown period of time---is scary and bewildering. I have found (particularly when I turn off the TV and the onslaught of repetitive news) that this time can provide much-needed solitude and reflection. I remember that God's love and grace will carry us through, whatever happens. I pray for endurance, faithfulness, and---most of all---for clarity to see as Jesus sees.



THOUGHTS AND PRAYS FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN, MARILYN WITT

In this time when we are all affected by the coronavirus, it may be helpful to remember, we are all in this together. Look out for each other and look out for yourselves. Listen to those who have knowledge medically and socially? It is our job to combat fear and anxiety with knowledge and faith. We trust God to mercifully protect us but God also asks us to be prudent citizens of the land in which we live.

We have not been able to worship together at St. James Church during this time. I hope you have been able to find services online that have been live streamed by Zoom or Facebook or other ways. I have shared services with a friend in Issaquah, Washington with Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church as well as their coffee hour. I also have enjoyed services from Washington National Cathedral. You can too at <https://cathedral.org> I was so honored to tour The National Cathedral at Christmas time a year ago. It is an awesome place.

Father Christopher also has online services at St. Peters in Lebanon.

We have talked about possibly trying the Zoom program to offer Morning Prayer services at St. James. Everyone has been so helpful and thoughtful and we are all learning new things. Today I received in the mail (as I am sure you did too) a letter from Carolyn Shupert that contained the lectionary readings for Holy Week and Easter along with other information. Thank you very much, Carolyn. How thoughtful you are. It will help us have a Glorious Easter. Pat Carter has set up a group email so we can keep in contact with each other and send information. I hope you all are receiving that.

Deacon Barry has led a couple of conference phone calls discussing business of the church. We are all learning much more technology. We are so thankful this is available during this time. The Daughters of the King are continuing daily prayers. If any of you have someone you wish us to pray for, including yourself, please, let one of us know. We will meet through a group email also.

The Bishop's Committee will also 'meet' by a phone conference call. I ask that all necessary Agenda items be sent to me ahead of time, please. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. I miss you all and if I can help in any way, please let me know.

"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?... For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock".

(Psalm 27: 1, 5)

Grace and Peace in Christ, Marilyn



THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL (DID YOU KNOW IT WAS EPISCOPALIAN?)



EASTER SUNRISE

MARILYN WITT'S PAINTING OF THE EASTER BULLETIN COVER-

